

Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club

The OSCILLATOR

MARCH 2008

Volume 31 Issue 3
Our 30th Anniversary

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone. An amateur radio license is not required.

Getting Started In
CW Contesting

We've had quite a bit of interest in contesting lately, with active participation by a dozen or more club members in various contests where we have operated as with our club call sign **W7OTV** or as *Tualatin Valley Contesters* **W7TVC**. If you include the mother of all contests, *Field Day*, it might be easier to count the people who haven't shown up. Total participation over the years must run to a couple hundred folks.

Field Day has a unique role as a showcase for our portability and improvisation skills in addition to our operating abilities. What we are accomplishing in the other contests, in addition to just having fun, is primarily to increase our individual and joint operating skill. By sitting down even for a few hours every month or two to operate under demanding conditions builds a lot of habits and techniques that can increase your operating pleasure and ability regardless of whether your main interest is contesting, ragchewing, DXing, or emergency service.

We have mainly worked phone or mixed CW/phone contests up to this point. Phone is always a good starting point.

30th Anniversary
SPECIAL EVENT STATION

This year, May 8th, marks the 30th Anniversary of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club. We have a rich history of contribution to the amateur radio service.

One event to help us celebrate these achievements on this significant anniversary is in the planning stages. We intend to operate **W7OTV** as a *Special Event Station* during the month of May. If you'd like to participate, contact Ron O'Connor KD7VIK or Everett Curry W6ABM.

CLUB ROSTER

The OTVARC Club Roster is a handy place to locate names, call signs and contact information for members of OTVARC. It is updated regularly.

The Club Roster is the property of OTVARC. The information included in the roster may only be used for club purposes. Any other use must be approved by the Board of Directors in advance of use. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our information in the custody of the club. Check your information for accuracy.

CLUB MEETING
WEDNESDAY, March 12th

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a *Special Service Club*. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

Our March 12th meeting will be held at our regular meeting location: **Peppermill Restaurant**, 17455 SW Farmington Rd, Beaverton. A pre-meeting dinner is available at 6:00 pm. The meeting at 7:00 pm. **Lee Hendrickson K6LQT** will present a presentation on infrared imaging.

Guests are always welcome.



THE BARREL

Read the collected thoughts of our president, **Robert WN7O** here...or online at the club web site: www.otvarc.org/president/index.html

At the web site, you'll find past BARREL contributions, plus other up-to-date information on the life of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club.

CW CONTESTING, from Page 1

Everyone knows how to talk, so you can focus on the unfamiliar parts of contesting – the exchanges, the propagation, the interference, and just the overall rhythm of it. But whenever we get a CW station going there is always a lot of interest, and there's a question that kind of lingers in the air: How did you ever learn to do that?

As it happens, I remember. I'll tell you my story. For quite a few years, *Field Day* was the only contest I ever worked. I remember my first one, at Banks in 1991. I worked into the evening logging for another operator whom I have forgotten. It sounded like people must have been running at 40 words per minute, and he was just rattling off the calls and exchanges for me to log. I took his word for it and wrote them down. I now know that most of these stations were running 20 to 25 WPM. Fast, but not as insanely fast as it seemed to me at the time. Well, my co-operator went home at around dark and I was left staring at a radio, a key, and a log sheet. What could I do?

I had the whole night ahead of me so I might as well try to make some points. I started listening to stations who were "running" a frequency, that is, sitting in one place calling CQ and taking on all comers. Doing this you can listen over and over to the same information enough to verify it. For example, let's suppose that K6ABC is a 3A station in Santa Clara Valley. You'll hear over and over something like:

CQ FD K6ABC
(K7XYZ calls)
K7XYZ 3A SCV
(K7XYZ sends exchange)
TU K6ABC FD
(next station calls)

So once you get the general rhythm of it, you can identify the parts you need to listen to. You start by hearing "K*****" (meaning K and then some stuff that flies right past you.) You write down the K. His exchange comes and you get "3*****" and you write down the three. Next time it comes around you're going to gloss over the K and get the next thing: "K6****". On the exchange you already have the 3 written down so you focus on what comes next and you get "3A *****".

Little by little, listening to maybe half a dozen or more exchanges and picking up one more character each time, you'll find that you have written down K6ABC 3A SCV and you're ready for the contact. You send your call, and when he comes back you don't need to copy it because you already have it. Oh, I forgot two other things. You need to be able to recognize your own call sign at speed so you'll know he's coming back to you and not someone else. This is usually pretty obvious from the rhythm but you really should get that down. You also need to recognize is the question mark. If he didn't copy, he'll ask for a repeat. You'll know because there'll be a question mark buried in there somewhere. Just resend your whole exchange every time you hear it and you'll be fine.

So to summarize this short introduction, what you need to get started is not the ability to copy at 20, 25 or 30 WPM. You need the ability to recognize each letter of the Morse alphabet so that as you focus on it when it goes by you can hold it in your mind long enough to decode it. If you have enough sense of rhythm to appreciate music, then you have enough that you can distinguish one Morse character from another. That, plus listening to your own call sign over and over until it is a recognizable pattern, and you can be off and going.

You will not achieve a phenomenal score using this method, but you will get started. Then, with more practice, you'll find that you are copying bigger chunks of information on each pass. One day you will be shocked to realize that you've just written down an entire call sign and exchange in one pass at 25 WPM or more. This doesn't mean you can copy 25 WPM by traditional standards! Your "solid copy" speed might still be 10 or 15 WPM, but you can copy limited pieces of info that follow a well-defined format at a much higher speed because, first, you know generally what's coming and, second, the information is of limited duration so you can keep enough of it in mind to get it written down. There are other tools and techniques that can be used, and I'll have more to say about them, but this method got me through my first several Field Days, Sweepstakes and CQ World Wide DX contests, and I still use it when I come across the real speed demons out there.

- Carl WS7L

MICKLEY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Each year a portion of our club's receipts from *Sea-Pac* go toward funding The Chuck Mickley Memorial Scholarship to any deserving US citizen amateur radio operator who is planning on attending college full time.

The Chuck Mickley Memorial Scholarship winner is announced the *Sea-Pac* Banquet. The scholarship is not restricted to the Portland Metro area, but that region is given preference. The award is available to new, continuing or returning students.

The application for the annual scholarship is on-line, <http://www.otvarc.org/scholarship/scholarship.pdf>. Deadline for applications is March 31. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the scholarship chairman, Carl Clawson WS7L or by clicking the OTVARC website at www.otvarc.org.

Let's all do our best to make sure the most deserving young (or old!) ham gets the award.

Carl Clawson WS7L
OTVARC Scholarship Chairman
ws7l@arrrl.net

Amateur Radio License Examinations

Our License Exam Session on February 2nd was very well attended. This has been the general trend for the last four or five months. Out of 19 applicants we have fourteen new hams (thirteen Technician Class licensees and 1 General Class licensee) plus three upgrades to General Class and one to Extra Class. One candidate made an unsuccessful attempt at an Extra Class upgrade and promises to be back.

One question that came up was whether the big influx the last few months was due to the weather disasters we've had. While I'm sure these events have contributed, the largest session we've had recently was in November, a month before the big winds and floods. So something else is spurring people to get involved. I don't know what it is.

One of the big problems with new hams is taking that next step after getting a license and a radio. I like to publicize a few resources at my exam sessions so people at least have a few web sites they can use to orient themselves. I write down web sites for OTVARC, ARRL, *Sea-Pac* (in season), ARES District One, and ARRL Oregon. If you have other favorites for new hams let me know. We're too busy during the sessions for actual discussion, but anything I can write on the board is fair game. Handouts are a great idea in theory but in practice I never remember to hand them out so if you really want to them, YOU need to come hand stuff out to applicants!

Thanks to VEs Len W7JLX, Everett W6ABM, Ernie K7EAJ, and Claire N7CM for working this session. If you're a VE and not getting regular emails from me about upcoming sessions, please drop me an email so I can make sure I have your current contact information on my list.

If you're not a VE but want to become one, visit the ARRL at <http://www.arrrl.org/arrrlvec/become-a-ve.html> and find out what you need to do.

Next session is Saturday March 1st, 1:00 pm at the Ronler Acres fire station.

73, Carl WS7L

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

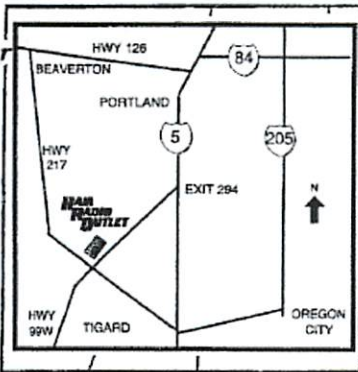


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SUNNYVALE, CA VAN NUYS, CA WOODBRIDGE, VA

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**8 March 2008****Electronics Fleamarket
Mike and Key ARC**

Puyallup, WA
W. Wash Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall
www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm
Talk-In: 146.82/22 (PL103.5)
Michael Dinkelman N7WA
22222 148th Avenue SE
Kent, WA 98042
253-631-3756
mwdink@eskimo.com

**30, 31 May, 1 June 2008
SEA-PAC****Northwestern Division
Convention**

www.seapac.org
Talk-In: 146.660
C. Wayne Schuler, AI9Q
16414 NE 21st Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98684
Phone: 360-892-5580
Fax: 360-892-5580
Email: ai9q@arrl.net

Repeater On Shoutcast

Go to www.shoutcast.com. Search
for **W7OTV**

OTVARC ADDRESS:
880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

ONLINE CALENDAR:my.calendars.net/otvarc/

**Want to keep track of events
planned by various interest
groups within the club?
Want to check out the date
for upcoming contests,
projects, hamfests, etc.
Here is the place to start.
You find a link to this page
on our web site
www.otvarc.org. Have you
checked out our web page
lately? Is there something
you'd like to see included
there?**

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annually), contact
Maureen O'Rourke
at 503.591.9641.
There is currently
limited space
available.

Happy March Birthday

2	JD Fort	K7JDF
6	Gene Buell	KA7KBH
7	Everett Curry	W6ABM
10	Geno Gray	K7GY
10	Randy Stimson	KZ7T
12	Dale LeBarron	W7FBP
12	Ray Deeth	K7VDQ
14	Jack Brucher	W7AAJ
16	Frank Ravenswood	K2NCC
17	Patrick Roberson	N7PAT
19	Will Hobbs	WI7O
20	Robert Crocker	WN7O
21	Joe Mohr	KC7ZZX
22	Al Berg	W7SIC
24	Steve Mathews	N7THK
24	Ira Rubin	KF7QS
24	Ray Casey	KB7YVN
28	Arch Doty	W7ACD

**Have we missed your birthday?
Likely we do not have your correct
date in our database.
Send updates and corrections to
otvarc@gmail.com**

**J. Steven Sanders****Certified General Appraiser****Sanders Appraisal, PC****503-320-4100****jss10@verizon.net****Orencia Station, Hillsboro, OR 97124****Fax: 503-547-8200**

St. Patrick says:



"My lips feel blessed & protected from
March winds, when I'm using my favorite:

OREGON TRAIL LIP BALM

Created by: Maureen O'Rourke KA7LAP
mcorourke@netzero.com

Available at: Oregon Mountain Community Store on Sandy Blvd.

DC POWER**Anderson Connectors & More**

Wes Allen, K7WWG
665 SW 167th Ave • 503-531-4081
Beaverton, OR 97006

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Web: www.dcpwr.com

Commodity Futures Options Trading Corp.www.usafutures.com**C. Wayne Schuler, AI9Q**

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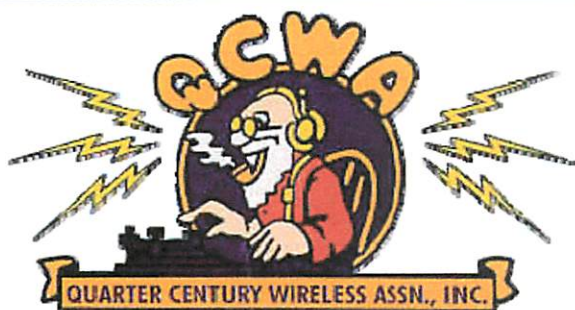
Email: ai9q@arrl.net

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QCWA OREGON TRAIL CHAPTER #168



The Quarter Century Wireless Association is an organization of licensed amateur radio operators who were first licensed more than twenty-five years ago. If you hold a current amateur radio license and you were licensed as a ham at least twenty-five years ago, you are eligible to join QCWA. It is not necessary for you to have been continuously licensed for twenty-five years. You can join QCWA on January 1st of the year your eligible.

Submit a copy of:

Your Original License - A QSL card - A Logbook Page A Letter from another Ham that verifies you were licensed before 1983. - a receipt from the first equipment you bought may have your call sign on it.

If you don't have other proof of licensing. QCWA has past Call Books and can help you verify the year you were first listed.

Be sure to include your first call and the year you received it. If you held a Novice License don't forget to show your WN or KN call

Our local chapter in the metropolitan area is Oregon Trail Chapter #168. This chapter is in the process of re-organizing and you can be a part of it...even if you are just now joining QCWA.

Jim Mockley W7JMM is your contact. Jim is a member of OTVARC who has stepped up to re-organize Chapter 168. Email him at w7jmm@arrl.net

OUR MARCH SPEAKER - Lee K6LQT

Lee Hendrickson K6LQT, started his career as an engineer designing portions of a radar system back in the 1960s. Today, he works in the Government Systems Division of FLIR Systems, in Wilsonville, where he prepares proposals to government entities and to large airframe manufacturers, ie Boeing and Lockheed.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Lee worked for Motorola and for Aerojet in Sacramento, California. Since the late 1960s Lee has been heavily involved in linked repeater systems, including the Cactus Intertie.

Lee. licensed for 51 years. He holds an Extra Class license.

You can reach Lee by email at his call sign at ARRL.net.

WORKING CANADIAN PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

A certificate will be issued to any Amateur who confirms two-way QSO's with CANADIAN Amateur stations located in each of the Canadian Provinces and Territories. All QSO's must be on one band only. Separate awards will be issued for each band and mode on which the applicant qualifies. (13 cards are required for each band/mode)

Do not send QSL cards. Have them certified by two other amateurs. You'll find more information on working Canadians for an award at:
<http://www.veron.nl/project/awards/canada.htm>

CANADIAN PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

VO1-VO2 Newfoundland-Labrador

VE1 Nova Scotia

VE1-VE9 New Brunswick

VE1-VY2 Prince Edward Island

VE2 Quebec

VE3 Ontario

VE4 Manitoba

VE5 Saskatchewan

VE6 Alberta

VE7 British Columbia

VE8 North West Territories

VY0 Nunavut

VY1 Yukon